

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 25188 WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/EP2003/006371	International filing date (day/month/year) 17 June 2003 (17.06.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 19 July 2002 (19.07.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B67B 3/20		
Applicant ALCOA DEUTSCHLAND GMBH		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 2 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the report
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 27 January 2004 (27.01.2004)	Date of completion of this report 23 August 2004 (23.08.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/EP2003/006371

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

 the international application as originally filed the description:

pages _____ 1-21 _____, as originally filed

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

 the claims:

pages _____, as originally filed

pages _____, as amended (together with any statement under Article 19)

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages 1-6 _____, filed with the letter of 26 July 2004 (26.07.2004)

 the drawings:

pages 1/4-4/4 _____, as originally filed

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

 the sequence listing part of the description:

pages _____, as originally filed

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

 the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)). the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)). the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

 contained in the international application in written form. filed together with the international application in computer readable form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form. The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished. The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of: the description, pages _____ the claims, Nos. _____ the drawings, sheets/fig _____5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/EP 03/06371

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-6	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-6	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-6	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

2.1 Reference is made to the following document:

D1: US-A-1 773 259 (CUNDALL ROBERT N) 19 August 1930
 (1930-08-19)

2.2 D1, which is considered to represent the closest prior art in relation to the subject matter of claim 1, discloses (the references in parentheses are to this document):

2.2.1 Sealing cone (C) for screwing screw caps (14) onto containers, in particular bottles, with a receiver, with a picking ring coupled non-rotationally therewith, said picking ring being segmented and having displaceable segments (107), and with an actuating device (118), which cooperates with the segments (107) to produce a variable internal diameter of the picking ring, wherein the actuating device (118) has a cone-cone coupling (118) between the receiver and at least one segment (107), preferably all the segments, of the picking ring, wherein the picking ring has at least one spring device (109) acting on at least one of the segments (107), said spring device being arranged such that a

force may be applied to at least one segment (107) in the direction of the centre line (121) of the sealing cone (C), enabling a screw cap (14) to be picked.

2.2.2 The subject matter of claim 1 thus differs from the known sealing cone in that the cone-cone coupling (118) is designed such that it acts to press the segments (107) together.

2.2.3 The subject matter of claim 1 is therefore novel (PCT Article 33(2)).

2.3 The problem addressed by the present invention may therefore be considered that of the picking of the screw cap being brought about by the spring device with the cooperation of the actuating device such as to enable the picking force to be accurately and easily controlled. The solution to this problem proposed in claim 1 of the present application is non-obvious and consequently involves an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)).

2.4 Claims 2-6 are dependent on claim 1 and therefore likewise meet the PCT requirements for novelty and inventive step.